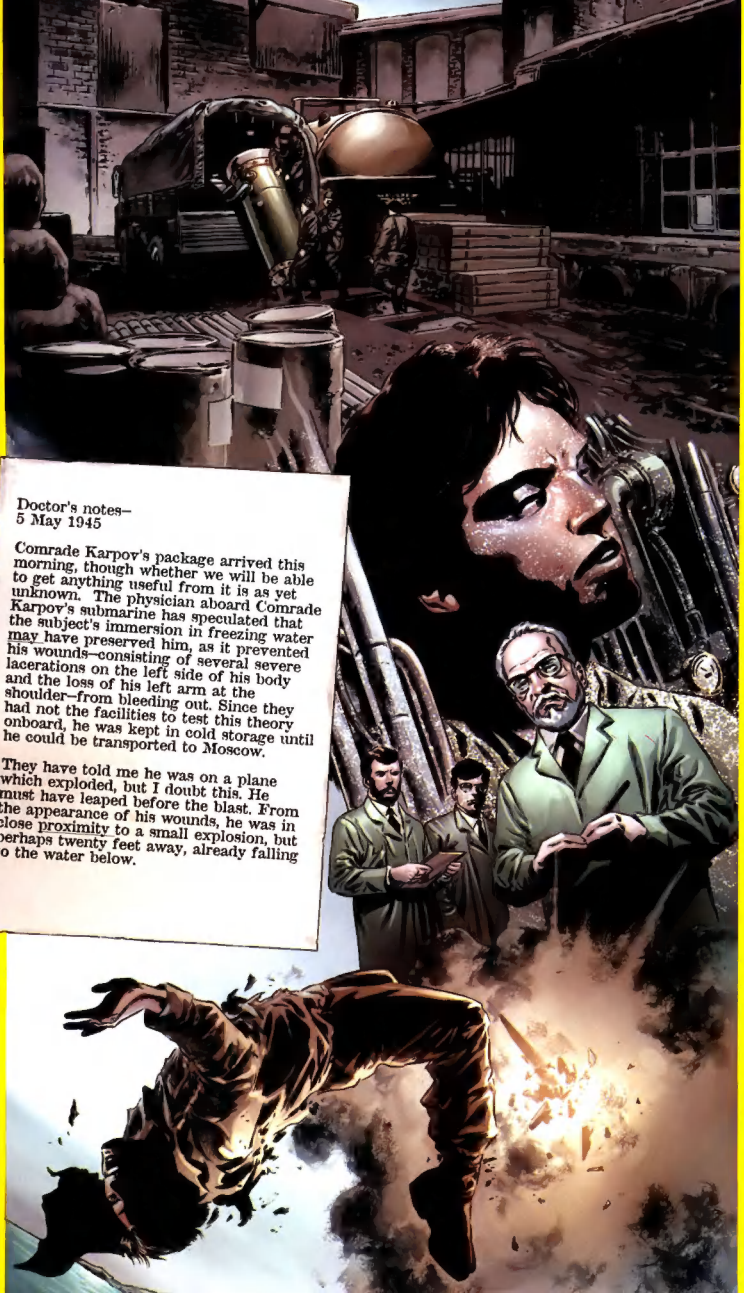
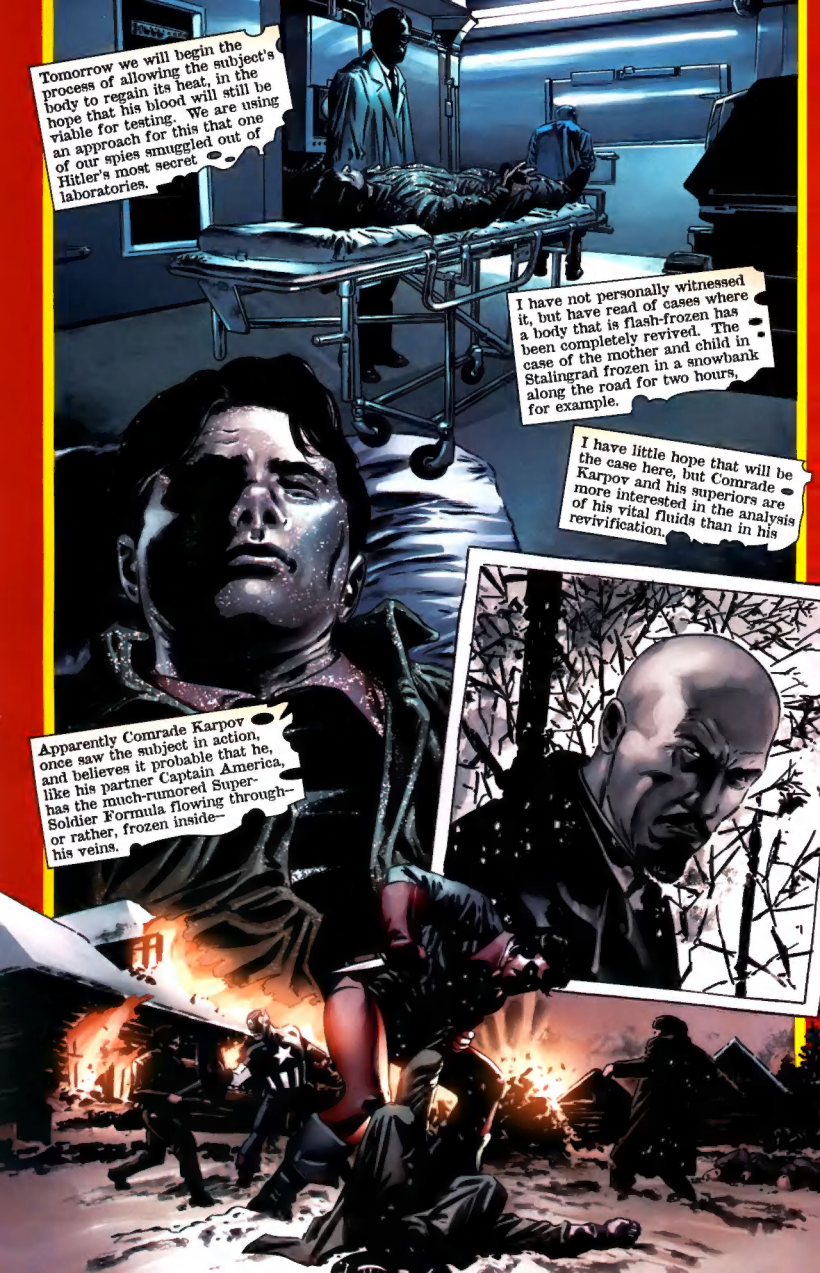

Doctor's notes–
5 May 1945
Comrade Karpov's package arrived this morning, though whether we will be able to get anything useful from it is as yet unknown. The physician aboard Comrade Karpov's submarine has speculated that the subject's immersion in freezing water may have preserved him, as it prevented his wounds–consisting of several severe lacerations on the left side of his body and the loss of his left arm at the shoulder–from bleeding out. Since they had not the facilities to test this theory onboard, he was kept in cold storage until he could be transported to Moscow.
They have told me he was on a plane which exploded, but I doubt this. He must have leaped before the blast. From the appearance of his wounds, he was in close proximity to a small explosion, but perhaps twenty feet away, already falling to the water below.

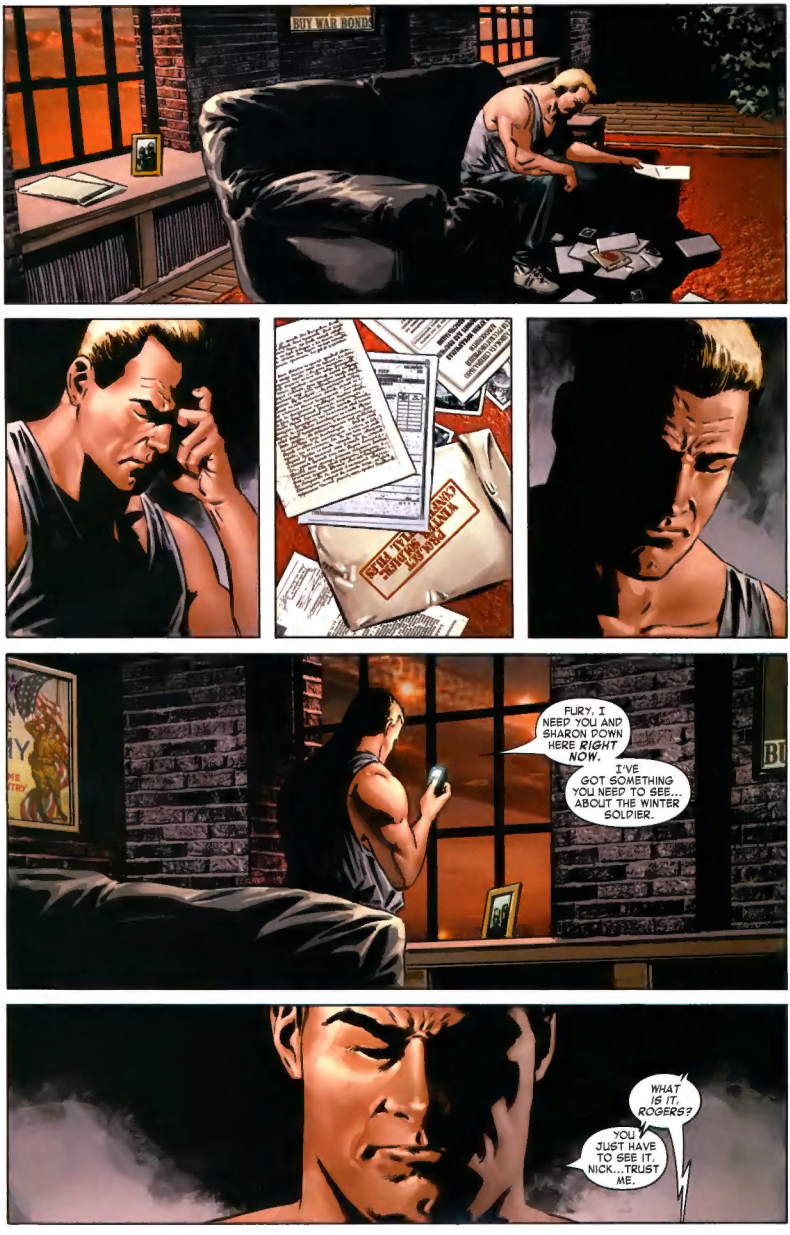

Tomorrow we will begin the process of allowing the subject's body to regain its heat, in the hope that his blood will still be viable for testing. We are using an approach for this that one of our spies smuggled out of Hitler's most secret laboratories.
I have not personally witnessed it, but have read of cases where a body that is flash-frozen has been completely revived. The case of the mother and child in Stalingrad frozen in a snowbank along the road for two hours, for example.
I have little hope that will be the case here, but Comrade Karpov and his superiors are more interested in the analysis of his vital fluids than in his revivification.
Apparently Comrade Karpov once saw the subject in action, and believes it probable that he, like his partner Captain America, has the much-rumored Super-Soldier Formula flowing through—or rather, frozen inside—his veins.

Doctor's notes
7 May 1945
Yesterday exceeded all expectation. Subject's body temperature was increased over the course of several hours, and his wounds were dealt with, to prevent bleeding. When his temp. was close enough to normal, it was as we thought...his tissue and blood were still viable.
But, as I predicted, he was in fact deceased. Either the explosion, the fall, or his time in the water, had killed him.
One of my colleagues had an idea that had not occurred to me. Since he had been frozen so soon after his demise, he suggested trying to revive him as if he were only recently deceased.
We administered electricity, Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, and adrenaline directly into the heart.

MAJOR GENERAL VASILY KARPOV
HEAD OF SPECIAL SECTION
DEPARTMENT X
TOP KGB CLEARANCE ONLY
Project: Winter Soldier -
June 1954
Volkov's man at MI-6, Parsifal, has proved his worth. The schematics for Advanced Robotic Appendages and Attachment he provided two months past were revolutionary. Our science team finished a working prototype and attached it to the American without incident. With the new appendage in place, clearance was given for Department X to begin work on the Winter Soldier Project.
It has long been my plan to turn this American symbol back against our enemies. He was no aid to developing our own Super-Soldiers, but he will still be a valuable tool, in the right hands.

It was our own experiments in Mental Implantation during Sensory Deprivation that provided the breakthrough. And because of the American's memory loss, it was quite simple. We were able to reprogram the American's mind.
We gave him a purpose, and we made him loyal to no one but us.
Once that was accomplished, we had simply to train and prepare him for a field evaluation.
Hopes are high that he will be a successful operative. I believe, because he walks and talks just like them, because he exudes "America" with his every breath, that the enemy will never see him coming.

His movements in New York are unknown to us, but for two weeks he was completely off the grid.
It was only through sheer luck that he was found by one of our agents, sleeping in a flophouse on the Lower East Side.
It took several of our agents, in the garb of New York policemen, to take him into custody.
Yet even after subsequent mental conditioning, Codename Winter Soldier has no answers for his conduct, or any memory of his time out of our control.
While troubling, the incident appears to be an aberration, requiring nothing more than closer watch. It is further recommended that in future he be excluded from missions on American soil.


BUY WAR BONDS
FURY, I NEED YOU AND SHARON DOWN HERE RIGHT NOW.
I'VE GOT SOMETHING YOU NEED TO SEE... ABOUT THE WINTER SOLDIER.
WHAT IS IT, ROGERS?
YOU JUST HAVE TO SEE IT, NICK...TRUST ME.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Hey everybody, welcome back. I hope you all enjoyed this month's issue. I think Steve's layouts for the bulk of this issue are among the best stuff he's done. He really took a tough and experimental issue and made it sing. So, a round of applause for Steve Epting! And now, onto the letters...

Thanks for making CAPTAIN AMERICA the best book on the shelves, guys! The Winter Soldier storyline really has my attention right now. I am hoping that it turns out to be Bucky, although you've promised a few more twists and turns along the way. Any chance we might see USAgent, Battlestar, the Serpent Society, or Superia in the near future?

Ashley Cruse
Elizabethtown, KY

1) USAgent--probably not.
2) Battlestar--Uhh...You're sooner to see D-Man, and he's not at the top of the list.
3) Serpent Society--Yes, but in a variation of some kind. I don't want to say too much, because it's early still, but I'm a big fan of the original Serpents.
4) Superia--see answer number 2.

Recently, thanks to the miracle of the Internet, I was a spectator as Mr. Brubaker was involved in a fascinating discussion about the elapsing of time in the Marvel Universe. I've always been of the opinion that in serialized fiction, time doesn't really pass, and the characters remain essentially ageless (unless of course they do age. I'm looking at you, Peter Parker...) despite the fact that decades worth of comic books are published and hundreds of adventures are lived and experienced. It's a paradox better resolved by accepting that the passage of days and months and years in "the real world," don't mean squat to characters who exist for 22 pages every 30 days or so.

Now, it was a revelation to me to learn that some comic readers disagree somewhat vehemently. So off I went to my issues of the current run of CAP, pulled out issues 4-8, to see if it's possible to determine how much time has actually passed. I believe I can safely say that roughly 2 days of CAP TIME have elapsed from the start of issue 4 to the end of issue 8. So, relative to how many months of "real time" I lived through, Cap has only had to shave twice (and possibly not even, since Steve looked a mite scruffy in 8). So that's 5 issues, which took half a calendar year to be published, and read and then reread over again by yours truly, encompassing less than 48 hours of time within the Marvel Universe.

And yet there is one thing that put a bit of a twist to my calculation of time passed in the fictional realm. Page 2 of issue 8 depicts the S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier floating above the smoking wreckage of Philadelphia with the setting tag of "PRESENT DAY" hovering alongside. Uh-oh. So is that "Present Day" August 29th, 2005, in which I write this letter and revisit that panel of the issue? Or is it "Present Day" August whenever it was I bought the issue and read it for the first time, 2005? How can it be "Present Day" in perpetuity?

In the end, all one can do as a reader of comic books is reconcile oneself with the fact that not everything we see upon these pages can be conclusively resolved using "real world" logic.

Kevin Lewis
Toronto, Ontario

Okay, I admit it, "Present Day" means this exact moment. Right here. Oh wait, now it's gone.

Honestly, I realize it can be frustrating as a fan to want a definite timeline for events in these books, but you're right--it's episodic fiction, and we just have to accept a certain amount of a sliding timeline and the occasional bumping of a heroes' origin date to keep them current. With Cap, thankfully, he'll always have those first five years of experience in WW2 as his starting point, but his time in the modern world will always be somewhat in flux, just as all the other modern Marvel heroes' time is.

CAP #9 was an interesting issue, to say the least. I look forward to seeing the resolution of this Winter Soldier arc and also to seeing if Cap and Sharon can ever reunite as a couple. One also wonders how the Cube will affect this Lukin chap. Will he be the new Red Skull? It should be interesting to see what unfolds. This has been a great run by a great team, but I do have one complaint/request: it seems to me that over the last couple of years, Cap has really had an attitude and been angry (don't get me wrong though, he's justified in this current case). I hope that after the dust settles from the Winter Soldier, we will see the smiling, happy Captain once more. Please save the "angry Cap" for his Ultimate Universe counterpart, or better yet, bring back USAgent (if he's even still alive) to fill the "bad attitude quota" that seems to be part of the title these last few years.

Robert Hustwick
(via e-mail)

Well, I can't take responsibility for what came before me, but as Kevin just pointed out, very little "story" time has actually passed since CAP #1 came out, and as you admit, with everything he's been going through, Cap is entitled to be depressed and angry right now. I'm sure there'll be lighter times ahead, but there'll also be plenty of dark ones, too. This is a serialized drama, after all, an action-oriented one, sure, but still, we need all the sturm and drang to keep us going.

And again with the USAgent. What is this, a conspiracy? I've got half a mind to bring him back just to kill him. Heh heh...

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: What was the last good movie you saw?

Ed Brubaker: *40 Year Old Virgin.* It reminded me of Steve Martin movies from the early 80s, like the *Lonely Guy* in some ways. Rudely funny, real, and a bit sweet.

Steve Epting: I recently saw *Never Die Alone*--a great, brutal crime movie. I wish they made more like this instead of the typical cornball crime stuff that serves only as a vehicle for the latest flavor of the month to pose through.

Mike Perkins: I finally took the time to watch *Run Lola Run* a couple of weeks back. Not only is it a fantastic, enjoyable film it's also a fantastic, enjoyable three films all spliced perfectly together. Recommended viewing and a pumpin' soundtrack.

Frank D'Armata: *Land of the Dead.* I always love zombie movies and can't miss one especially by the king, George Romero, although I don't get to do much anymore being stuck behind the computer most of my adult life.

Molly Lazer: I really enjoyed *Red Eye*, even though I generally don't go for scary movies. I thought it was really well-done. One of these days, though, I'd like to see Cillian Murphy in a film where he doesn't creep the bejeezus out of me.

Aubrey Sitterson: *The Aristocrats.* It's righteously offensive and completely immoral. Not to be confused with *The AristoCATS*, which is equally offensive, but slightly more immoral.

Andy Schmidt: I just saw *Oldboy*, and it was fantastic-a return to great action movies. You remember those? They're movies about real characters and drama with a few cool action sequences that advance the story and build to an incredible climax...No? Yeah, it's been about 10 years since they've made one.

Tom Brevoort: *A Fistful Of Dollars*, the first of the Sergio Leone "spaghetti westerns." Saw a documentary about the genre, got interested, sought it out.

Next up we have something a little different. Every month we get a letter from Steve Chung, and I've never printed one, because I didn't understand them. But I've recently been informed that his letters are free verse reactions to the comic. So, here's a poem (I think) by Steve Chung, answered by me in haiku.

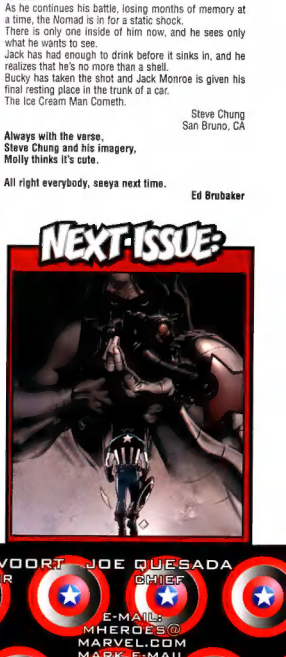
The cover; Jack Monroe pays the price for following in
Cap's footsteps.
Outside of a bar, Jack has taken his final shot.
Without the stabilizing influence of the Vita-Rays, the
Super-Soldier Serum is wreaking havoc on Jack's body,
as well as his mind.
Nice to see that Jane Foster has continued her medical
career.
All he had wanted to be was Bucky alongside Captain
America.
He never had an identity of his own and stooped to
carrying on the identities of others.
Being a super hero is in his blood, but now it's coming
to the surface.
Jack cannot bear to see the man in the mirror, and it
won't be long before he too, falls to pieces.
Could his experiences and blackouts be connected to
the Cosmic Cube?
She has seen the man who wasn't there.
Jack is starting to see monsters that aren't there.
Nomad has got a drive for justice, enough to bring a
speeding car to a sudden halt.
His is a false victory and his hold on sanity has eluded
his grasp on reality.
The tumor has a face and there's only room enough for
one of them.
He has led a double life and now those identities seek to
shed him like a worn skin.
While Jack Monroe struggles with his personal problems,
Captain America has lost a team which was like a family
to him.
As he continues his battle, losing months of memory at
a time, the Nomad is in for a static shock.
There is only one inside of him now, and he sees only
what he wants to see.
Jack has had enough to drink before it sinks in, and he
realizes that he's no more than a shell.
Bucky has taken the shot and Jack Monroe is given his
final resting place in the trunk of a car.
The Ice Cream Man Cometh.

Steve Chung
San Bruno, CA

Always with the verse,
Steve Chung and his imagery,
Molly thinks it's cute.

All right everybody, sseya next time.

Ed Brubaker



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